

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney representative in two phone conversations, a first conversation on or about July 17, 2007 and a second conversation on July 26. Subsequent to the first conversation, Applicants submitted a set of proposed claim amendments for informal review. In the second conversation, the Examiner indicated that the proposed amendments would appear to overcome the prior art of record.

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application. Claims 10-14 are cancelled with the present amendment. Claims 6-9 were cancelled in a previous amendment dated April 27, 2006. Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and claim the invention. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite the particular arrangement of the buffer layer and protective film relative to the second electrode. Support for the amendment is found at least in Fig. 1. No new matter has been added by the foregoing amendments.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102 – claims 1-4

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0135296 (Aziz *et al.*, hereinafter "Aziz").

In particular, regarding independent claim 1, the Examiner states that Aziz discloses a first electrode (a cathode) (Fig. 3, item 38) formed on a substrate (Fig. 3, item 31); a buffer layer (Fig. 3, item 34); a second electrode (an anode) (Fig. 3, item 32); and a protective film layer. Relative to the protective film layer, the Examiner refers to page 5, left hand column, paragraph 0042, lines 23-30:

...
an organic light emitting device wherein the second electrode is a cathode coated with a thermal protective element, and the first electrode is an anode contacting a supportive substrate, or wherein the anode is coated with a thermal protective element; and the cathode is in contact with a supporting substrate; an organic light emitting device comprising... .

Applicants note that Aziz thus discloses that the thermal protective element (items 19, 29, 39, and 49 in Figs. 1-4, respectively, see paragraphs 0064, 0065, 0066, and 0067) is disclosed to

be positioned on the electrode which is furthestmost from the supporting substrate. In the context of Fig. 3, wherein the cathode 38 (the “first” electrode) is in contact with the supporting substrate 31, it is therefore the anode 32 (the “second” electrode) which is disclosed to be coated with the thermal protective element, or thermal protective layer 39.

Applicants respectfully traverse rejections of claims 1-4.

Aziz discloses various embodiments of an organic light emitting device containing a substrate (11, 21, 31, and 41 in Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively); a first electrode (an anode 12, 22, 32, and 42); a second electrode (a cathode 18, 28, 38, and 48); a mixed region (15, 25, 35, and 45); a thermal protective element (19, 29, 39, and 49); a hole transport region (13, 23, 33, and 43), wherein the hole transport region may include a buffer layer (14, 24, 34, and 44); and an electron transport region (16, 26, 36, and 46).

Independent claim 1 is directed to an organic electroluminescent device, and, as amended recites, *inter alia*:

...
a buffer layer disposed on a first side of the second electrode; and
a protective film layer disposed on the first side of the second electrode;
wherein:
the buffer layer is in contact with the first side of said second electrode and is disposed between said second electrode and the protective film layer. (Emphasis added.)

Aziz fails to disclose at least the feature recited in claim 1 of a buffer layer in contact with a first side of a second electrode and disposed between the second electrode and a protective film layer. In particular, with reference to Fig. 3, Aziz discloses buffer layer 34 being in contact with second electrode (anode) 32 (the first electrode (a cathode) being formed on substrate 31). However, Aziz clearly fails to disclose the buffer layer 34 being disposed between the second electrode 32 and the protective film layer 39. On the contrary, Aziz discloses the buffer layer 34 disposed on a first side of the second electrode 32 and the protective film layer 39 being disposed on a second side of the second electrode 32. Aziz fails to disclose each and every element of

claim 1, and thus each and every element of claims 2-4 depending from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 –claims 10-14

The Examiner has rejected claims 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,969,474 (Arai). In view of cancellation of claims 10-14, these rejections are now moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 –claim 5

The Examiner has rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As discussed above, Aziz fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least the feature of a buffer layer in contact with a first side of a second electrode and disposed between the second electrode and a protective film layer as recited in claim 1, as amended. Claim 5 is also patentable over Aziz at least in view of its dependence upon claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-5, is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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